NUMB. C.

The SPECTATOR.

Nil ego contulerim jucundo ſanus amico. Hor.

Monday, June 25. 1711.

A Man advanced in Years that thinks fit to look back upon his former Life, and calls that only Life which was paſſed with Satisfaction and Enjoyment, excluding all [illegible] which were not pleaſant to him, will find himſelf very young, if not in his Infancy. Sickneſs, Ill-humour, and Idleneſs, will have robbed him of a great ſhare of that Space we ordinarily call our Life. It is therefore the Duty of every Man that would be true to himſelf, to obtain, if poſſible, a Diſpoſition to be pleaſed, and place himſelf in a conſtant Aptitude for the Satisfactions of his Being. Inſtead of this, you hardly ſee a Man who is not uneaſy in proportion to his Advancement in the Arts of Life. An affected Delicacy is the common Improvement we meet with in thoſe who pretend to be refined above others: They do not aim at true Pleaſures themſelves, but turn their Thoughts upon obſerving the falſe Pleaſures of other Men. Such People are Valetudinarians in Society, and as they ſhould no more come into Company than a ſick Man ſhould come into the Air: If a Man is too ſick to bear what is a Refreſhment to Men in Health, he muſt ſtill keep his Chamber. When any one in Sir ROGER's Company complains he is out of Order, he immediately calls for ſome Poſſet-drink for him; for which Reaſon that Sort of People who are ever bewailing their Conſtitution in other Places, are the Chearfulleſt imaginable when he is preſent.

It is a wonderful thing, that ſo many, and they are reckoned abſurd, ſhall entertain thoſe with whom they converſe by giving them the Hiſtory of their Pains and Aches; and imagine ſuch Narrations their Quota of the Converſation. This is of all other the meaneſt Help to Diſcourſe; and a Man muſt not think at all, or think himſelf very inſignificant, when he finds an Account of his Head-ach answered by another's aſking what News in the laſt Mail? Mutual good Humour is a Dreſs we ought to appear in wherever we meet, and make no Mention of what concerns our ſelves, without it be of Matters wherein our Friends ought to rejoyce: But indeed there are Crowds of People who put themſelves in no Method of pleaſing themſelves or others; ſuch are thoſe whom we uſually call indolent Perſons. Indolence is methinks an intermediate State between Pleaſure and Pain, and very much unbecoming any Part of our Life after we are out of the Nurſes Arms. Such an Averſion to Labour creates a conſtant Wearineſs, and, one would think, ſhould make Exiſtence it ſelf a Burthen. The indolent Man deſcends from the Dignity of his Nature, and makes that Being which was Rational meerly Vegetative: His Life conſiſts only in the meer Encreaſe and Decay of a Body, which, with Relation to the reſt of the World, might as well have been uninformed, as the Habitation of a reaſonable Mind.

Of this Kind is the Life of that extraordinary Couple *Harry Terſett* and his Lady. *Harry* was in the Days of his Celibacy one of thoſe pert Creatures who have much Vivacity and little Underſtanding; Mrs. *Rebecca Quickly*, whom he married, had all that the Fire of Youth and a lively Manner could do towards making an agreeable Woman. Theſe two People of ſeeming Merit fell into each others Arms, and Paſſion being ſated, and no Reaſon or good Senſe in either to ſucceed it, their Life is now at a Stand; their Meals are inſipid, and their Time tedious; their Fortune has placed them above Care, and their Loſs of Taſte reduced them below Diverſion. When we talk of theſe as Inſtances of Inexiſtence, we do not mean, that in order to live it is neceſſary we ſhould always be in jovial Crews, or crowned with Chaplets of Roſes, as the merry Fellows among the Antients are deſcribed; but it is intended by conſidering theſe Contraries to Pleaſure, Indolence and too much Delicacy, to ſhew that it is Prudence to preſerve a Diſpoſition in our ſelves to receive a certain Delight in all we hear and ſee.

This portable Quality of good Humour ſeaſons all the Parts and Occurrences we meet with in ſuch a Manner, that there are no Moments loſt; but they all

all pass with so much Satisfaction, that the heaviest of Loads (when it is a Load) that of Time, is never felt by us. *Varilas* has this Quality to the highest Perfection, and communicates it wherever he appears: The Sad, the Merry, the Severe, the Melancholy shew a new Cheartulness when he comes amongst them. At the same time no one can repeat any thing that *Varilas* has ever said, that deserves Repetition; but the Man has that innate Goodness of Temper, that he is welcome to every Body, because every Man thinks he is so to him. He does not seem to contribute any thing to the Mirth of the Company; and yet upon Reflection you find it all happened by his being there. I thought it was whimsically said of a Gentleman, That if *Varilas* had Wit, it would be the best Wit in the World. It is certain, when a well corrected lively Imagination and good Breeding are added to a sweet Disposition, they qualify it to be one of the greatest Blessings, as well as Pleasures of Life.

Men would come into Company with ten Times the Pleasure they do, if they were sure of hearing nothing which should shock them, as well as expected what would please them. When we know every Person that is spoken of is represented by one who has no ill Will, and every thing that is mentioned described by one that is apt to set it in the best Light, the Entertainment must be delicate; because the Cook has nothing brought to his Hand but what is the most excellent in its Kind. Beautiful Pictures are the Eutertainments of pure Minds, and Deformities of the corrupted. It is a Degree towards the Life of Angels, when we enjoy Conversation wherein there is nothing presented but in its Excellence; and a Degree towards that of Dæmons, wherein nothing is shewn but in its Degeneracy.

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A curious Collection of original Prints of the best Italian, French, Dutch, and other Masters, at Jack's Coffee-house in Swithin's-Ally behind the Royal Exchange, where is also a small Collection of Closet Pieces well painted, on Wednesday the 27th Instant at 3 in the Afternoon: Where Catalogues may be had gratis, and Prints seen 3 Days before the Sale.

At the Indian Man in Russel-Street, Covent-Garden, is a Parcel of rich Jewels, viz. a Brilliant Diamond String and Cross, Ear-Rings, Rings, Buckles, Pendants, and also fine Lace, rich Silks, Muslins, and other valuable Goods, to be disposed of at reasonable Rates, the whole amounting to 675 l. which, for the Encouragement of Buyers, will be divided into 360 Shares, the biggest whereof is 160 l. Value, and the least 10 s. Any one of these may be purchased for the little Sum of Half a Crown, as may be known more at large at the Place of Sale, where Attendance will be given till all the Goods be sold. It being near full, 'tis propos'd to divide the Shares on the 12th of July next.

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